

# The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**



## RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

## Time to Renew!

Please help us continue to provide quality programs, activities, and events for our club members. One of the ways we do this is through the RARS annual dues. The membership year is July 1-June 30, so it's time to renew!

There are a number of ways to pay your dues.

- Pay at a RARS meeting.
- Mail your dues to the RARS Treasurer:  
Greg Seamster  
1405 Leanne Court  
Raleigh, NC 27606
- Pay online at <http://www.rars.org/joinrars.htm>.  
Online payments are made via PayPal to [Raleigh\\_ARS@earthlink.net](mailto:Raleigh_ARS@earthlink.net).

You are also welcome to renew for multiple years. View your membership status and update data at <http://www.rars.org/only.php>. Please provide updates for your interest in public service, SKYWARN, and ARES. If there are no data changes to your membership (address, call, license class, etc.), you do not need to fill out a renewal form (downloadable PDF at <http://www.rars.org/joinrars.php>). Thanks! We couldn't do it without you.

## Dues

Regular: \$18  
Reduced (Under 12 or Over 60): \$12  
Associate (Not Licensed): \$9  
Each Additional Family Member: \$5

## Next RARS Meeting: July 3

7:30 PM: "North Carolina QSO Party"  
by Marty Young W4MY.

## **RARS OFFICERS:**

### **PRESIDENT**

Karl Bowman

W4CHX

919.669.6068

[w4chx@arrrl.net](mailto:w4chx@arrrl.net)

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Candy Orr

NC4CJ

919-217-7734

[cjorr@bellsouth.net](mailto:cjorr@bellsouth.net)

### **SECRETARY**

Bob Chew

KI4YXM

919.782.5778

[rlchew@mindspring.com](mailto:rlchew@mindspring.com)

### **TREASURER**

Greg Seamster

KE4PAX

919.859.0029

[ke4pax@arrrl.net](mailto:ke4pax@arrrl.net)



## **The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society**

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website ([www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org)).



---

## **The Exciter**

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org). Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS ([editor@rars.org](mailto:editor@rars.org))

### **RARS General Meeting**

*Date:* First Tuesday of each month

*Location:* First Alliance Church  
4400 Buffaloe Road  
Raleigh, NC

*Time:* People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

### **RARS Monthly Dinner**

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org) for details on the next dinner's location.

### **RARS Repeaters in Raleigh**

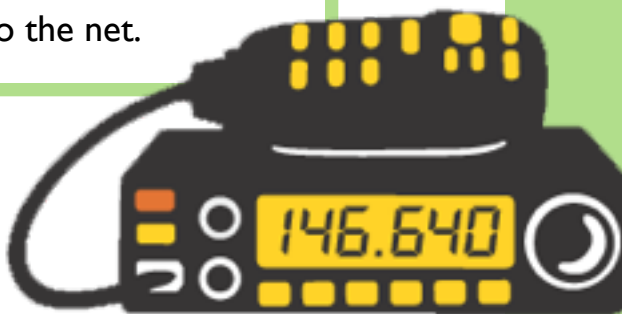
146.640 & 443.625 (88.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.

## **VE TESTING**

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$14 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org) for more information.



## June Birthdays

Brooks	K4BRX	7/5
Giff	KC4SAM	7/15
Ferdinand	AD4RC	7/25
Charles	WB4DCM	7/26
William	K4CIA	7/28
Meme	KE4NGM	7/28
Dave	W4YDY	7/29
Scott	KJ4TUC	7/30

## New RARS Members

Steve Hill	WD4RKX
Cliff Deel	W4CE
Pam Eckardt	KK4IPN
Nathan Adams	KK4DHD
Beth Burt	No License

## May 2012

### RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 545  
Traffic: 38/29  
Minutes: 655  
Sessions: 31

Special Interest Nets:  
Checkins: 145  
Minutes: 520  
Sessions: 12

## Upcoming Hamfests

- 6/30 20th Down East Hamfest  
Kinston, NC  
<http://www.downeasthamfest.org/>
- 7/7 Firecracker Hamfest  
Salisbury, NC  
<http://www.rowanars.org/>
- 7/21 Cary Mid-Summer Swapfest  
Cary, NC  
<http://www.qsl.net/n4nc/swapfest.html>
- 7/21 6th Annual MCARC Hamfest  
Athens, TN  
<http://www.mcminnarc.com/fest/fest.html>
- 7/28 35th Annual Western Carolina Hamfest  
Waynesville, NC  
<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/wcars-hamfest-1>
- 7/28 CARC Hamfest  
Cullman, AL  
<http://cullmanarc.webs.com/hamfest2012.htm>
- 8/4 CFARS Swapfest  
Fayetteville, NC  
<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/14th-annual-cape-fear-ars-swapfest>

## President's Corner

**Column by Karl Bowman W4CHX,  
RARS President**

I had a blast at Field Day! Here's what I did: drove out on Friday, looked around, waited for 2:00 PM, helped assemble a beam antenna, began to sweat, helped set up the "rocket launcher" antenna tower, continued to sweat, rushed home to handle some personal business on Friday night and Saturday morning, rushed back just in time to hear the Sheriff's siren go off, put on my Three Days of Peace and Radio t-shirt, started sweating again, began to drink water, ate a donated sandwich, then another, checked out the stations, found out that a/c was present in many stations (!), applied insect repellent, continued to drink water, ate some barbecue, filled out some message forms, met my wife Gale K4GGB, got her some food, visited the GOTA station, walked her back to her car, spent a lot of time in the 20 meter phone and 80/15 meter phone stations, fell asleep in a chair at least twice, was surprised when daylight arrived, walked up to the ERV for coffee and a biscuit, continued to operate (as I recall), got some lunch, went back to operate, found dupes everywhere, stopped operating with only 30 seconds remaining, stood up, walked to my car, got my hard hat and gloves, helped take down the antennas for 2 stations, marveled at the silence when the last generator was shut down, said goodbye, and drove home.

Here's what I'll remember: it was really nice to work with, learn from, and get to know a great group of individuals.

Here's what I am looking forward to: next year's Field Day, especially since Gale said she'd take off work and participate once she learned that a/c can be put in a tent!

In closing, I want to thank everyone for their efforts to make ARRL Field Day 2012 such a great success! And, please don't forget that there are public service events in July that need our assistance. See the RARS website or contact John AI4RT at [ai4rt@hotmail](mailto:ai4rt@hotmail) for further information.

73, Karl W4CHX

---

# Some Interesting History about Field Day (Part I)

Article by Marty Young W4MY

The first Field Day was announced by F. Edward Handy, W1BDI, in the June 1933 issue of QST Magazine. It began with

## **International Field Day – June 10th - 11th**

Clubs, 56mc operators, all hams with licenses for portable stations, attention!! Starting Saturday at 4 p.m. local time (June 10th) and ending Sunday at 7 p.m. local time (June 11th) all U.S.A. And Canadian station owners are invited to schedule “field activities” excursions with concentrated operation of portable transmitters and receivers. Only portable stations, actually in the field, away from the “home” address are eligible to submit field day scores...

And so it started with this humble beginning the biggest event of the year for North American hams, Field Day. It was thought even back then, as it is today, that operation independent of the public mains was a necessary skill to have in the pursuit of public service. There is no mention of what the exchange should be or if a signal report (Ala. 599) was necessary. There was plenty of time for real signal reports though because the winning station that year, W4ZZPAW, made 62 QSOs with a 28 section multiplier for a total of 1876 points! The station with the highest QSO count was W9ZZAL who topped out at 98! (The odd call sign was a result of the rules back then requiring precedence of “ZZ” to the suffix of your call when operating with a portable station license.)

This event was such a hit that in 1936 there were two field days. The second one was in August and had about the same number of participants. Strange thing though, they didn't do it again in August the next year or ever again. I guess the honeymoon was over. I can't imagine it was fun lugging the refrigerator size radio gear to the outdoors once a year, let alone twice.

By 1940 the field day we know today starts to emerge. The 500 foot circle rule is put into place grouping everyone together (it was increased to 1000 feet in 1950). Bonus points are added for passing messages and home stations are now allowed to submit scores, albeit they may still only work the portables as before. Of course, we all know that ham radio was shut down during the years of WW2 and this was the case with field day as well.

Field Day returns after the war right where it left off in 1941. VHF and 11 meters are added shortly after the war and a “mobile” category is added. Its in 1950 that the

modern classes emerge as an official part of the exchange. 'A' is a club portable as today, 'B' is for small non club portables, 'C' is for mobiles as today, and 'D' for home stations.

The 1950's really ramp up the emphasis on emergency preparedness as an important motivation to participate in field day. The 1951 QST field day announcement states, "At a time when civil defense is organizing, the Field Day provides an unparalleled opportunity for mass testing of our emergency facilities." To help with this end, home stations now are now asked to participate using 'emergency' power away from the commercial mains and are given the category 'D' classification. The new 'E' category is for home stations who used regular power. Its reversed today of course. Maybe they wanted to encourage emergency operation by assigning the "failing" grade designation (E) to the ones who operated with regular power. (Remember E was a failing grade on the old school system before F was designated as such) Who knows?

One interesting tidbit is worth mentioning concerning a change in 1957 with the start time. Up until then, Field Day started at 4pm on Saturday LOCAL time. This would stagger the start westward as the day wore on. It would then end at 4pm PST with only west coast stations to work in the last hour. Everyone worked in their own 4 o'clock to 4 o'clock 24 hour window. This year everyone starts at 2100 GMT and ends at 2400 GMT. As today, any station at any QTH could operate a continuous 24 of the 27 hours available. Everyone liked that as it made for a fast and furious start. There were now over 10,000 hams participating in field day events across North America.

Changes ebbed and flowed in the 1960's. It was stating to be more of a "contest" than an event for "emergency preparedness" (not a new argument!) Philadelphia lawyering of the rules was the big thing during these days. Ever wonder why coaxial switches are not allowed? Groups were putting multiple receivers with operators "teeing up" contacts and switching a single transmitter to that operator in sequence to work a QSO. That way they could increase their QSO rate using many operators and stations and still be classified as 1A. One year they accidentally left out the requirement in the rules about message handling maximum bonus of 100 points. Teams caught it and churned out scads of messages worth 10 points each from questionable sources in much the same way as dead people vote in Chicago. How about "manufactured" QSOs? Up until then it was not illegal to work one of the other stations in your group. A rule wasn't needed up until then as it seemed intuitive that that wasn't really sporting. But ten guys, each with their own call, in a 3A operation on 3 bands could (and did) generate 90 QSOs with the RF never leaving the farm! That was banned and the verbiage that a TRANSMITTER can only use one call sign for the duration was born.

The sixties closed out with the requirement in 1968 to not setup until FD began. It was an attempt to bring back the "emergency preparedness" aspect. The start time was



moved up 2 hours to 1900Z and everyone could operate the entire 27 hours (vs 24 before) to compensate. It was mandatory that year and everyone hated it. As a result it was optional in 1969 and remains so today.

Next month the time line will continue to the present incarnation of Field Day. Some things to come are Novice and GOTA, satellites, digital, SSB vs CW, alternative power, free VHF, and the score record. CQ FD!

---

## **Minutes of the June 5, 2012 RARS General Meeting**

1. Call to order: Karl W4CHX called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.
2. Approval of minutes: The Minutes of the RARS General Membership meeting on May 1, 2012 were approved.
3. Vice President's report (CJ NC4CJ): Included with the speaker introduction.
4. Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): RARS currently has 327 members. If any member has questions, please see Greg KE4PAX or Karl W4CHX.
5. Announcements (Karl W4CHX):
  - RARS Dinner: second Tuesday, (6/12/12), 6:30 PM, Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue (Hwy 70), monitor the 146.64 repeater on Tuesday (5/8) for any update information.
  - RARS Board meeting: third Tuesday (6/22/12), 7:00 PM, Triangle Radio Reading Service, 211 E. Six Forks Road, Suite 103; any RARS member is welcome to attend. For more information, contact any RARS officer.
  - After meeting gathering: The after meeting gathering will be held at Applebee's, Six Forks and Wake Forest Roads (by the Costco).
  - Upcoming hamfests: The Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest, Winston-Salem, NC (6/9); Knoxville Hamfest and Electronics Expo (TN State Convention), Knoxville, TN (6/9); Manassas Hamfest, Manassas, VA (6/10); 20th Down East Hamfest, Kinston, NC (6/30); and, Firecracker Hamfest, Salisbury, NC (7/7). Please see the *Exciter* and ARRL website for information on other hamfests.



6. Guests (Karl W4CHX): John Daniel KK4JCN, Beth Burt (wife of David W4OFO), Kim Young (wife of Marty W4MY).
  7. Reports from RARS Board members and others:
    - Public Service (John AI4RT): John AI4RT reviewed upcoming service projects in July, which leads off with the July 4th Bike ride in Cary.
    - Repeater project (Karl W4CHX): Cliff W4FT provided a brief update on the bid process for the replacement of the building at the Bayleaf tower site. Karl W4CHX indicated that volunteers are need for these projects, particularly a licensed building contractor and electricians. Please contact Karl W4CHX via email at w4chx at arrl dot net to volunteer.
    - North Carolina QSO Party (Marty W4MY): Marty W4MY reported that RARS is now the sponsor for the North Carolina QSO Party (NCQP). He is chair of the committee that will manage NCQP 2013.
    - RARS Budget 2012 /2013 (Greg KE4PAX): Greg KE4PAX presented the proposed RARS budget for 2012/2013. Copies of the proposed budget were available for members to examine. Greg KE4PAX discussed the capital expense budget items for next year. There was a motion to accept the budget, which was followed by a second to the motion. The RARS Budget for 2012/2013 was voted upon and approved.
  8. Any other business: Alan AB4OZ announced that there will be another 10m net after the Tech net on Saturday night.
  9. Drawing: Dick KD4ISC and David KF4VXJ were the winners.
  10. Program: The program was, "Field Day", which was presented by Bob W4TTX, the RARS Field Day Chair. He reviewed the plans for ARRL Field Day 2012. In addition, Bob W4TTX reported that RARS has received permission Woodstock Ventures and HeilSound Ltd to use and modify a Woodstock poster in support of RARS Field Day effort. The modified poster image will be used on T-shirts that can be ordered through Bob W4TTX.
  11. Adjournment: Karl W4CHX adjourned the meeting at 9:04 PM.
-

# Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

## Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at [www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net](http://www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net).

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

## The Wake County ARES

**Net** meets Thursdays at 8:30 PM on the 146.640 repeater. We provide discussion training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American

Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out [www.wakeares.org](http://www.wakeares.org).

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM.

This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit [www.carolina440.net](http://www.carolina440.net).

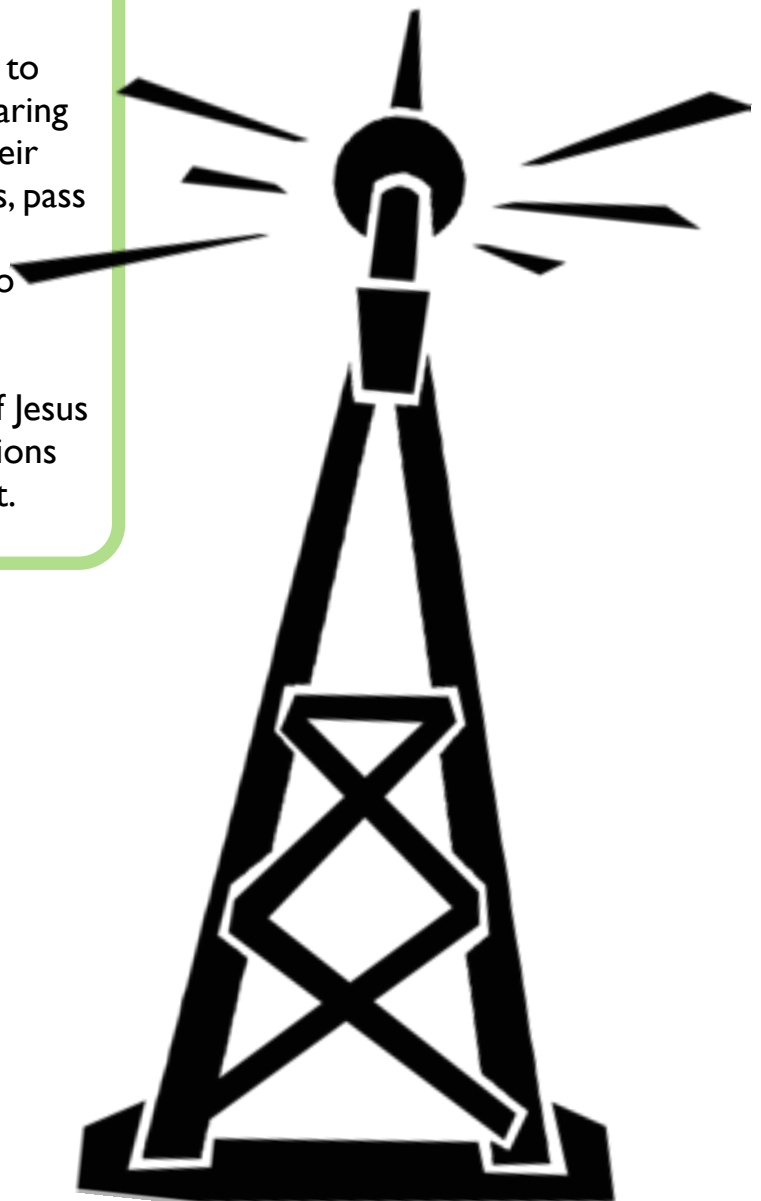
# Local Amateur Radio Nets

The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 at 8:30 PM.

## **Apex Emergency Response Communications Net**

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to [www.voipwx.net](http://www.voipwx.net).



## RARS Classifieds

Looking to add a new radio to your shack? Have an antenna for sale? Browse the RARS classifieds for new and used radio equipment at <http://rars.org/classifieds.php>.

RARS members are welcome to post notices about equipment they are selling. Posts last for 30 days and are editable at any time.

Using our classifieds is a great way for buyers to search for available items and for sellers to reach a local, targeted audience.

*The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's*

**EXCITER**

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc.  
PO Box 17124  
Raleigh, NC 27619

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
RALEIGH, NC  
PERMIT NO. 2130